

## SAW TAG IN DOOR OPEN

Witnesses in Triangle Fire Trial Help the Defence.

TELLS OF KEY ON STRING

Girl Declares She Went Out Into Hallway on Hearing Alarm and Was Driven Back by Flames.

Several witnesses for the defense testified yesterday afternoon that the Washington Place door on the ninth floor of the Triangle Waist Company's plant was frequently used by them. One witness said she found it open at the time of the fire, when 18 girls and young men lost their lives.

But it was not altogether a day of easy sailing for the defendants, Isaac Harris and Max Blau, for Assistant District Attorney Robert H. Hughes, who was in charge of the prosecution, asked the witnesses to cross-examine them. The witness of the defendants listened to the entire day's testimony.

May Levanthal, of No. 57 Christopher street, testified she was at work on the ninth floor when the fire started.

"I heard a noise," she said, "and went to the Washington Place door, and opened it by turning the key. I looked over the banister and saw flames coming from the floor below."

She said she then ran back into the left, shutting the door after her, and with another girl, slid down the elevator cables to the ground floor.

"What was the first intimation you had that there was a fire?" asked Judge Crane.

"When I opened the door,"

"Do you mean that you did not know there was a fire until after you opened the door?" asked the court.

"Yes, sir. I didn't know there was a fire until I looked over the rail and saw flames and smoke,"

"Why did you go in the corridor this morning that nothing could shake your testimony that the door was open?" asked Mr. Boettwick.

Max Steuer, counsel for the defense, was on his feet protesting, and on his objection the question was not allowed.

"You say the key was in the door?" continued Mr. Boettwick.

"Yes, it was in the lock, and attached to the doorknob by a string about half a yard long."

"Did you ever see anybody go in or out the Washington Place door?"

"Yes, the forewomen, Harris and Blau, and I, too, used it."

"Why did you say to me on April 11 that you did not remember ever seeing anybody go in or out that door save in summer?"

"Did you tell me that?"

"Well, she answered, after a pause, 'I don't remember. I probably did.'"

Thomas Horton, a negro, employed as a porter in the building, told Mr. Steuer that he often used the Washington Place door, saw others use it, and always found it open.

Mr. Boettwick, armed with a statement made by Horton last April, asked him if he did not say then that the Washington Place door was locked.

"No, I didn't say that."

"Didn't you say that to me, in the presence of a stenographer and other witnesses?"

"So you were a witness then?" interrupted Mr. Steuer.

"No, the others were. I'm looking forward to some other proceedings."

Steuer ran from his seat until he came abreast of the Assistant District Attorney and shouted:

"Don't you make any threats in this court. I ask the court to caution Mr. Boettwick."

Mr. Boettwick mildly asked the court to restrain his remarks, and Judge Crane merely told him to proceed.

Mr. Boettwick continued his questions, until Horton blurted out, "I don't remember. I may have said it," to a question.

"Then why do you say 'never' then?"

"That's what I'm kicking about this never business," he replied. "That's what's got me all bothered up here—this never business."

Isaac Stern, who supplied the place with steam heat, said he had been on the ninth floor at least two hundred times in the year preceding the fire, and whenever he used the Washington Place door found it open.

John Williams, State Labor Commissioner, was also on the stand. He identified reports made by his inspectors concerning the Triangle Waist Company. All reported that the doors were found unlocked.

## PASSED BY AS LEADER

Queens County Boss Retires at Committee Meeting.

IS FOR HARMONY, HE SAYS

Votes for Dujat for Chairman and Urges Followers to Work with Borough President.

Joseph Cassidy, who has been leader of the Democratic organization of Queens County for six years, was practically forced out of the leadership at the organization of the Queens County Democratic Committee, held last night in his own clubhouse, in Court square, Long Island City. He had to suffer the humiliation of seeing the new forces that have taken control of affairs in the borough invade his private domain, where he has ruled with arbitrary power, and carry away the coveted chairmanship of the county committee.

By this action Cassidy was not robbed of much power, however, for ever since the election of Maurice E. Connolly as Borough President to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Lawrence Casser, he has had little but the empty title of county leader and county chairman.

Cassidy conspired to keep Connolly out of the Borough Hall, and within a week after sitting down in the president's chair Connolly announced that he had not been elected by Cassidy but in spite of him, that he owed Cassidy nothing and would have anything to do with him or any one he represented.

No definite announcement of the success of those who were fighting Cassidy was made until last Friday, and then the statement was given out that thirty of the forty-five members had agreed to stand for Alderman Alexander Dujat for chairman and Maurice E. Connolly for president.

Cassidy went to the clubhouse early in the evening, and went into the little room on the second floor, from which he has commanded the forces at his disposal since he has been chairman. With him were Matthew J. Smith, District Attorney-elect, Luke A. Keenan, John Cassidy, his brother, James Cassidy, another brother, and half a dozen district captains of lesser importance. This was the remnant of the faithful to the fallen leader.

Promptly at 8 o'clock Cassidy left his little office and pushed his way to a table at the front of the meeting room. No sooner had Cassidy called the committee to order than it was seen that excellent preparations had been made to carry through the programme mapped out at the conference. James J. O'Brien, of Newtown, a Cassidy ally, called for a dissenting member, and then a motion was made to elect Cassidy chairman.

This motion was put by Cassidy, and carried without a dissenting voice. Mr. Cassidy then called for a dissenting voice, and then a motion was made to elect Cassidy chairman.

The new Borough President has announced that if some one was selected as chairman of the committee, he would see to it that the patronage of his office was given to this committee.

He thought at this time that it was his duty to the men who have stood with me in all my fights to agree to anything that will and to bring about harmony and the ultimate success of the party. I believe that this can be done by working in harmony with Borough President Connolly. I therefore move that the nomination of Alexander Dujat be made by acclamation.

Cassidy's motion was seconded by several and was carried.

Alderman Dujat then stepped to the front and made his bow to the county chairman with these words: "Gentlemen, I can't make a speech, and none is needed. I am a good democrat and will preside here as such."

Joseph P. Powers, of the Cassidy old guard, who was defeated at the last election for alderman, was elected secretary. John Theodor, Jr., of Flushing, was made treasurer, and Fred Flitter, of the Rockaways, was made secretary-at-large.

NEW FOLIES BERGERE OPENS

Vaudeville Show Follows Dinner to Representatives of the Press.

The new Follies Bergeres opened informally last night in the Studebaker Building, at Broadway and 4th street, with a dinner to the press, at which representatives of all the New York newspapers were present.

After the dinner there was a vaudeville entertainment of eight acts, George M. Cohan, star of the show, being the main attraction.

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## MORTAR SHOTS HARMLESS

Fort Totten Bombardment Fails to Jar Long Islanders.

DON'T EVEN HEAR REPORTS

After Standing About on Toes and with Fingers in Ears They Learn That "It's All Over."

To the casual traveller along the north shore of Long Island yesterday forenoon it must have appeared that the natives had suddenly gone deaf, and why not? All the villagers and those who make their homes in the big country houses were standing about, inside or out, with their finger tips in their ears and with their mouths wide open. Likewise, their eyes were closed tightly and they stood upon their toes. Women would turn to men and ask: "Has it happened yet?" and the men would shake their heads and keep on balancing on toe-tips and nothing happened!

But there was a reason for this strange conduct on the part of the Long Islanders. Yesterday morning, about 10 o'clock, was the time set for the firing of the twelve-inch mortars at Fort Totten, in Long Island Sound, and the army officers in charge of the tests had been sending out warnings for the last three days. Everybody on Long Island living within a five-mile radius of the fort had been told to prepare for sudden shocks from the concussion of the big guns. They were directed to do just what they did yesterday, and also to keep all the windows of their houses open, so that no glass would be broken.

Everything was carried out according to schedule, except that no windows on Long Island were broken, no teeth were loosened, no eyes strained and no ear drums split. In fact, the people across the Sound from Fort Totten did not know when the mortars were fired. Finally, unable to bear the suspense any longer, they telephoned hysterically to Fort Totten asking, "When are those dreadful guns going to be fired, any more?" Actual disparagement sounded in their voices when they were told the guns had already been discharged. "Aren't we going to be thrown off our feet, or have our windows broken or something?" they demanded.

There was some little delay before the first mortar was fired. It was intended to let loose the first of the 100-pound shells at 9:30 o'clock, but the mechanism of the mortar carriages had to be exactly adjusted, and it was just 10:40 o'clock when Mortar No. 1, in Pit A, was discharged.

A terrific roar and burst of flame followed the touching off of the great bag of powder behind the table and said nominations for chairman were in order. Alderman Dujat, Cassidy then arose and said:

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## SUBMIT BRIEF FOR DUTY

Counsel Reply to Report of Commissioner Bulger.

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